

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
-----251604Z 038734 /43

O R 251447Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SEXSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4566
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT)
SUBJECT: PRESS DISCUSSION OF SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT

REF: TEL AVIV 0521 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. UNDER THE HEADLINE "VANCE ASKED TO COME EARLIER" DAVAR
PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 25 THE FOLLOWING REPORT FROM ITS
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (BARNEA): BEGIN TEXT: ISRAEL HAS
REQUESTED U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TO ADVANCE
THE DATE OF HIS VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY BY A FEW DAYS, PROBABLY
IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT HE CONCLUDES HIS VISIT BEFORE THE
LABOR PARTY CONVENTION OPENS. VANCE HAD INTENDED TO ARRIVE
IN ISRAEL BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY, AND IS NOW EXPECTED
SHORTLY AFTER THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

2. U.N. HEADQUARTERS SOURCES DECLARED YESTERDAY THAT WALDHEIM
HAD EXPLAINED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT HE WAS GOING TO
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THE MIDDLE EAST BECAUSE "THE EGYPTIANS HAD URGED HIM
TO DO SO." WALDHEIM WILL BE MEETING WITH VANCE ON
FRIDAY, ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE.

3. MEANWHILE, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON TOLD
AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS THAT EGYPT'S ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES ARE THE RESULT OF EGYPT'S DECISION TO HEED

THE ECONOMIC ADVICE SHE HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE U.S. THE LATEST PRICE INCREASES, ACCORDING TO EGYPT, WERE A PART OF THE ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP AND OPEN UP THE EGYPTAIN MARKET AND INTENSIFY FOREIGN INVESTMENT (FROM THE WEST). THESE CONTENTIONS ARE PREPARING THE GROUND FOR EGYPT'S INTENTION TO REQUEST A SIZEABLE INCREASE IN ECONOMIC AID FROM THE U.S. DURING VANCE'S VISIT. END TEXT

4. IN A STORY FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (MARGALIT) ABOUT THE RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S. BY PLO OFFICIAL ISSAM SARTAWI, HAARETZ SAID: "SOME OF THE U.S. OFFICIALS WHO HAVE JOINED THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ARE KNOWN TO FAVOR A NEW APPROACH TO THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. IT IS HOWEVER ASSUMED THAT NO CHANGE WILL OCCUR IN U.S. RELATIONS TOWARDS THE PLO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DURING HIS VISIT TO THIS REGION, SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WILL EXAMINE WHAT ARE DESCRIBED AS 'NEW' TRENDS OF THOUGHT IN ISRAEL ON THE PALESTINIAN SUBJECT: MR. VANCE WILL ARRIVE IN ISRAEL AT THE END OF FEBRUARY AND MR. RABIN IS PRESSING FOR HIS (RABIN'S) DEPARTURE TO WASHINGTON IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH." END UNCLASSIFIED

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: THE EMBASSY HAS BEGUN TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FROM LOCAL JOURNALISTS FOR INTER-VIEWS WITH THE SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT. THESE REQUESTS ARE INDICATIVE OF THE GREAT PRESS INTEREST WHICH THE SECRETARY CAN EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER DURING HIS VISIT.

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6. COMMENT: THE ALLEGATION THAT THE SECRETARY HAD BEEN ASKED TO RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL BECAUSE OF THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION (WHICH WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN RABIN AND PERES) IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE COMMENT WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED ON THIS SUBJECT. GIVEN THE INTENSE COMPETITION BETWEEN RABIN AND PERES, THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL INEVITABLY BE SEEN BY EACH SIDE AS A FACTOR IN THAT LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE. FOR EXAMPLE, HAARETZ' MATTI GOLAN, A KNOWN PERES SUPPORTER, WROTE JANUARY 21 THAT "...THE VISIT WILL SURELY GET A LOT OF PUBLICITY AND RABIN WILL GAIN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE STATESMANSHIP...SHIMON PERES' MEN WILL PROBABLY TRY TO LIMIT THE EXTENT OF THE HARM WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT IT WOULD BE REDICULOUS TO DETERMINE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY ON THE BASIS OF ONE OR ANOTHER VISIT." END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV00561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770026-1164
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770118/aaaaaqfy.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e83e08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 521
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3502770
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS DISCUSSION OF SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, XF, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e83e08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009